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3rd Marine arrested in embassy spy probe

By Bill Gertz
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Military authorities have arrested a third U.S. Marine security guard and charged another already in custody with spying, in an expanding investigation into the sex and espionage case at the U.S. Embassy in Moscow.

Pentagon officials yesterday announced that Staff Sgt. Robert Stanley Stufflebeam, 24, of Bloomington, Ill., was arrested by the Marine Corps Sunday for failing to report contacts with Soviet women while stationed at the Moscow embassy.

The Pentagon also announced that the Marine Corps has charged Cpl. Arnold Bracy, another former Moscow embassy guard, with espionage for collaborating with Marine Sgt. Clayton J. Lonetree in allowing

Soviet agents to enter the Moscow embassy last year "on numerous and diverse occasions."

Both Sgt. Lonetree and Cpl. Bracy were seduced into spying by female Soviet employees working at the U.S. Embassy in Moscow, according to administration officials. Sgt. Stufflebeam, who served as an assistant commander of the Marine detachment at the embassy, has not been charged formally.

Maj. Anthony Rothfork, a Marine Corps spokesman, said the latest arrest was the result of an ongoing Naval Investigative Service probe of "all of the alleged espionage activities at the U.S. Embassy in Moscow during a period when all three served concurrently."

A senior State Department official described the Moscow spy affair as the most serious security lapse in the department's history and said other Marines may be involved in the espionage penetrations of the U.S. Embassy.

"At this point, prudence requires that we assume the worst: There may well have been others" involved in spying, said Robert E. Lamb, chief of diplomatic security at the State Department.

"We're looking at that very thoroughly, and if there are others, we'll know it soon."

During an interview in his State Department office, Mr. Lamb said the Soviet KGB intelligence service last year made "numerous" attempts to sexually subvert Marines and U.S. Embassy personnel in Moscow but failed until recently to gain access to secret areas of the building.

"This is the first time," Mr. Lamb said. "I can't think of a single [previous] instance where there's been a penetration inside the embassy by a hostile intelligence service."

Mr. Lamb also said the State Department is close to completing an investigation into allegations that Marines stationed at the U.S. Embassy in Vienna, Austria, may have been involved in affairs with communist bloc nationals.

"We are looking at these charges as they relate to Vienna," he said. He declined to elaborate.

Mr. Lamb said that while policies on fraternization have not been "flaunted" in Moscow, the State Department is reviewing cases of Marines who were disciplined for violating strict rules against socializing with Soviet nationals.

"We're [also] looking at cases of fraternization that for one reason or another were not reported or were not investigated," he said.

Mr. Lamb said officials are exploring the old cases to see if "there were indications that these fraternizations were going on, and somebody knew about it but took it too lightly."

Mr. Lamb said U.S. officials investigating the embassy affair so far had concluded that, "by all accounts, it's a seriously damaging incident."

Recent events in Moscow have alerted the State Department and its Foreign Service to the need for greater vigilance against Soviet spying, he said.

"The Soviet intelligence threat is real. It's systematic. It's being directed against us aggressively in this country, in the Soviet Union and in other countries," he said. "In some ways we in the federal government have been naive and slow to recognize it."

As a result of damage from the Moscow security breach, all classi-

fied electronic communications from the embassy have been halted and diplomatic messages are being sent by courier, Mr. Lamb said. The entire security system at the embassy is being revamped, he noted.

At the Pentagon, chief spokesman Robert Sims said Sgt. Stufflebeam was arrested at the Marine base at

Camp Pendleton, Calif., although he has not been charged with espionage. Sgt. Stufflebeam allegedly made false statements about contacts with Soviet nationals "during his exit debriefing, indicating that no such contacts had occurred," Mr. Sims told reporters.

"Specifically, he is suspected of having associations with Soviet women on several occasions," Mr. Sims said. "He is suspected of committing the offenses while stationed as a Marine security guard at the Moscow embassy."

Sgt. Lonetree and Cpl. Bracy served as embassy guards in Moscow for some eight months in 1985 and 1986. Sgt. Stufflebeam was stationed at the embassy from May 10, 1985, until May 24, 1986, the Marine Corps said.

Mr. Sims said eight formal charges have been lodged against Cpl. Bracy, including a single espionage count, for acting as a lookout for Sgt. Lonetree during unauthorized embassy intrusions by Soviets agents.

A list of charges released by the Pentagon stated that Cpl. Bracy contacted the same Soviet agent named in the Lonetree case, Alexei G. "Uncle Sasha" Yefimov, who administration sources identified as the KGB contact in the operation.

Cpl. Bracy was charged with failing to report telephone and personal contacts with Galina Nikolaevna Golotina and Mr. Yefimov between June and August 1986.

Those dates indicate that Cpl. Bracy continued to meet with the Soviets after Sgt. Lonetree had left Moscow for an assignment in Vienna in March 1986.

Sgt. Lonetree last week was accused of escorting Soviet agents inside the embassy. He allegedly permitted the agents to enter secured areas, such as the communications center, defense attache's office and other intelligence sections. A total of 24 charges have been

lodged against him, including two espionage counts.

U.S. intelligence officials said the case represents one of the worst losses in U.S. history since a wide range of information was compromised.

Mr. Lamb said the State Department was moving quickly "to restore security" at the Moscow embassy and to prevent damage.

Meanwhile, the State Department announced that William Brown, U.S. ambassador to Thailand, would lead an investigation into Moscow security procedures.